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| <b>FORM PTO-1449</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  |  |                 | <b>Docket No.:</b><br><b>AI 376NP</b>  |              | <b>International No.:</b><br>PCT/JP03/12198<br><div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/529047</div> |           |                                   |
|  |  |                 | <b>Applicant:</b><br><div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Kouji KITAHATA et al.</div> |              |  |           |                                   |
|  |  |                 | <b>International Filing Date:</b><br>September 25, 2003  |              | <b>Group Art Unit:</b><br>To Be Assigned   |           |                                   |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |
| Examiner Initial   |  | Document Number | Date   | Name         | Class  | Sub-Class | Filing Date                       |
|  |  | 2003/0136211    | 07/24/03   | Ishii et al. |  |           |                                   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |
|  |  | Document Number | Date   | Country      | Class  | Sub-Class | Translation                       |
|  |  | EP 244099       | 11/04/87   | Europe       |  |           | Yes                               |
|  |  | 07-173483       | 07/11/95   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract and computer translation |
|  |  | 2001-181668     | 07/03/01   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract and computer translation |
|  |  | 4-266995        | 09/22/92   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract                          |
|  |  | 2002-3872       | 01/09/02   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract and computer translation |
|  |  | 2001-354986     | 12/25/01   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract and computer translation |
|  |  | 59-155497       | 09/04/84   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract                          |
|  |  | 53-71108        | 06/24/78   | JAPAN        |  |           | No                                |
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|  |  | 8-209167        | 08/13/96   | JAPAN        |  |           | Abstract and computer translation |
|  |  | 2000-43739      | 02/15/00   | JAPAN        |  |           | Corresponds to USPAP 2003/0136211 |
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| OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)   |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |
|  |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |
|  |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |
| Examiner   |  |                 |  |              | Date Considered  |           |                                   |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant. |  |                 |  |              |  |           |                                   |